

National Commission on Accountability in Higher Education

May 10, 2004, Washington, DC

Written Testimony from the South Dakota Board of Regents

Identification

- The Board of Regents (<http://www.sdbor.edu/>) is the constitutional governing board for the six state universities:
 - Black Hills State University, Spearfish
 - Dakota State University, Madison
 - Northern State University, Aberdeen
 - South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, Rapid City
 - South Dakota State University, Brookings
 - University of South Dakota, Vermillion
- SHEEO: Robert T. Tad Perry, Executive Director, 605-773-3455, tadp@sdbor.edu

The Board of Regents has a significant history of actions to improve performance and achieve results and routinely provides information to elected officials and the public.

Recent Developments in South Dakota Higher Education

The Board adopted State Higher Education Policy Goals in 2003:

- 1 – **Access:** Every qualified South Dakotan shall have access to public postsecondary education.
- 2 – **Academic Quality and Performance:** South Dakota public universities and special schools shall provide a quality educational experience.
- 3 – **State Wealth:** South Dakota public universities shall engage in activities designed to enhance the state's long-term economy.
- 4 – **Efficiencies:** South Dakota public universities and special schools shall continue to seek means for improving efficiency in the delivery of educational services.

This testimony is organized using these policy goals.

- The executive director, Dr. Robert T. Tad Perry, prepared a report on *Opportunities for South Dakota* (June 2003) using demographic and university system data and comments gathered from numerous meetings across the state. The report is organized around the policy goals and identifies opportunities to increase access, improve quality, develop research for economic growth, and create efficiencies.
- Earlier this year the Legislature and Governor provided new matching funds for performance funding. Universities that reach performance targets will earn new state resources.

Institutional and System Goals and Performance

1 -- Access: Every qualified South Dakotan shall have access to public postsecondary education.

South Dakota College Prep – www.sdcollegeprep.info

- A 2002 law requires school districts to provide the names and addresses of students in grades 7 through 12 to the Board of Regents.
- Students and parents are mailed information about how to prepare for postsecondary education academically and financially.
 - The information mailed varies based on the student's grade.
 - Students and parents are provided with information about postsecondary education opportunities in the state.

“Recommended” College Prep High School Curriculum to be established

- Legislation enacted this year directs the state Board of Education to adopt a “recommended” high school curriculum that will be the default; parents will have to take action to place a student into the existing or “basic” curriculum.
- The recommended curriculum is to include more mathematics and science than are currently required.

South Dakota Opportunity Scholarships –new for 2004 high school graduates

- Provides \$5,000 over four years -- \$1,000 each of first three years & \$5,000 in last year.
- Preparation required for eligibility includes four years of mathematics and science, two years of a foreign language, a minimum high school GPA, and ACT of at least 24. The requirements are expected to increase the percentage of high school graduates who complete four years of mathematics, four years of science, and two years of a foreign language.
- Progression requirement for continued eligibility -- students must complete 15 semester hours each semester with a B average to remain in the program.

Advanced Placement Institutes for High School Teachers

- System universities have offered AP and Vertical Teams institutes for teachers since 1998.
- By preparing teachers to offer AP courses to high school students, the universities have made significant contributions to the preparation of high school students for university work.

Performance Funding – Retention of Undergraduates in the State University System

- 40% of the system performance funding pool is allocated to retention.
- The retention measure begins with degree-seeking undergraduate students a fall semester and removes those who received a degree before next fall. The performance measure is those enrolled in the system as a percentage of those who did NOT receive a degree.
- Separate performance targets for students enrolled with less than 12 and 12+ credit hours.

2 – Academic Quality and Performance: South Dakota public universities and special schools shall provide a quality educational experience.

System Rising Junior Proficiency Examination

- All rising juniors in the system take the ACT CAAP examination to determine proficiency in Mathematics, Science Reasoning, Writing, and Reading.
- The purpose of the examination is to ensure that students are making the expected improvements over their entering ACT score.
- The Board of Regents receives and publicizes information about performance relative to expected performance based on entering ACT score.
- Proficiency examination performance was part of the incentive funding program in place for FY99 – FY02.

Performance Funding – University Measures Related to Student Learning & Experiences

- 20% of the system performance funding pool is allocated based on university mission performance.
- Black Hills State University – average mathematics score on system proficiency exam.
- Dakota State University – percentage of graduates with degree in core mission area.
- Northern State University – percentage of bachelor’s graduates completing an E-learning certificate.
- South Dakota School of Mines & Technology – percentage of juniors & seniors participating in enterprise research/project teams sponsored by a business or government agency.
- South Dakota State University – percentage undergraduates enrolled in courses that involve experiential learning or travel outside the US.
- University of South Dakota – percentage of students enrolled in courses that require significant research or creative activity.

Performance of Graduates on Licensure and Certification Examinations

- The Board of Regents receives regular reports about the performance of graduates on examinations required for professional licensure or certification (for example: Audiology, Law, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy).
- The information is provided to the Legislature in the annual *Fact Book*.

Review of System General Education Policy – In Progress

- There are system policies for associate and baccalaureate degree general education.
- Specific courses are identified as meeting general education requirements.
- At the direction of the Board of Regents, the system is reviewing the general education policy.
- Possible outcomes include increasing the general education mathematics requirement and increasing the writing expected of students.

3 – **State Wealth:** South Dakota public universities shall engage in activities designed to enhance the state's long-term economy.

2010 Initiative Research Centers

- The 2010 Initiative announced by Governor Mike Rounds (<http://www.2010initiative.com/>) includes a goal related to research:
 - **Become a recognized leader in research and technology development by 2010.**
- In 2003 the Legislature appropriated \$2,768,741 to the Department of Tourism and State Development for the support of research centers to be operated by the state universities.
- The research center program has the following specific objectives:
 - To develop several research centers that achieve national reputations and provide the state with a leadership role in science and technology;
 - To develop centers that become competitive for major federal research funding and that achieve financial self-sufficiency over the lifetime of the state support;
 - To develop focused areas of research which generate demonstrable and significant commercial activity that contributes to economic development in South Dakota;
 - To increase the number of people for whom research is the principal assignment.
- A competitive process to select two to four centers is in progress with selections scheduled to be announced in May.
- Goals and performance measures related to economic development, self support, and reputation have been identified for the new research centers:
 1. Economic Development: Generate external resources that provide for a doubling of resources for the research center by year 6.
 2. Economic Development: By the end of year 5 have produced at least one patent or copyright that has economic potential for commercialization.
 3. Self-Supporting: By year 6 have external resources that provide for the salaries of researchers in the unit.
 4. Self-Supporting: By year 6 support all graduate student researchers with revenues from external sources.
 5. Reputation: Publish the equivalent of one article a year in scientific journals for each faculty researcher in the unit.

Performance Funding – Growth in Grants & Contracts

- 40% of the system performance funding pool is allocated to grants and contracts.
- The measure is externally funded grants and contracts received by the universities. Grants from the state, financial aid, pass through contracts, and income from sales and services are excluded.
- The goal is for each university to double grants & contracts to double its FY02 amount by FY06.

4 – **Efficiencies:** South Dakota public universities and special schools shall continue to seek means for improving efficiency in the delivery of educational services.

Single Student Database for all System Universities

- The system recently completed a two-year project to merge the six separate university student databases into a single system database (for example: students now have single ID number even if they take courses from two or three universities).
- The single database is expected to improve and expedite services to students, especially those enrolled at more than one university.
- Efficiency is expected to increase due to common policies and operating procedures across the system.

Governor Rounds Course Redesign Grant Program

- The Governor Rounds Course Redesign Grant Program supports the redesign of large-enrollment university courses to improve student learning and reduce faculty FTE needed to offer the course.
(<http://www.sdbor.edu/awards/roundscourseredesignprograms.htm>)
- Funds are provided by the Governor's Office for summer faculty compensation and curriculum resources.
- Proposals include an analysis of course salary and benefit costs and plans for the reassignment of faculty FTE to be released as a result of the redesign.
- Proposals include the university's plan for evaluating the effects of the redesign on student learning and course costs.